

Andrew Jackson to Martin Van Buren, November 18, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO MARTIN VAN BUREN.

Washington, November 18, 1832.

My D'r sir. I have just received your letter of the 16th and am happy to find you have promptly attended to it. the opposition would delight in getting the committees this session to embarrass me in every thing that might require their aid, and notwithstanding I view the proceedings in SoCarolina as a bubble still the present situation of that state and the reckless course of the leaders in nullification may require some Legislative aid, and the sudden resignation of Mr Tazwell¹ all combine to strengthen a belief that some plan of policy has dictated this measure; wisdom says, *be always guarded* against the council and combination of the wicked. the precaution suggested is one of safety and prudence.

1 Littleton W. Tazewell, senator from Virginia, resigned his seat suddenly on July 16, 1832, seven days after he had been elected president *pro tempore* of the Senate.

As to nullification in the south, i mean to pass it barely in review, as a mere bubble, view the existing laws as competent to check and put it down, and ask merely a general provision to be enacted, to authorise the Collector under the instructions of the secretary of the Treasury to demand of all vessels entering our harbours, where a state by law has authorised her Citizens to oppose and resist the collection of the revenue, the duty to be paid in cash deducting the interest on the credits under existing laws to which the[y] would be entitled. This is all we want, peaceably to nullify the nullifiers.

Library of Congress

On the subject of the Naval officer I must with my usual candor remark, and you must now be convinced that I can have no other view but to administer the government in such away as will strengthen the democratic party, unite the whole and produce the greatest prosperity to our beloved country, and restore the administration to the rules pointed out by the express grants in the constitution. The opposition is broken and scattered, still tho scotched not dead, and it behoves us so to proceed as to unite and give energy to our democratic brethern, prosperity to the whole union and bury as far as we can that jealousy that I have had so much trouble in keeping down in your state. This can be done. you recollect how hard Hector Craigg has been pressed by his party upon me since the commencement of my administration, and from time to time it has been said to his friends that in due time he should be provided for—first his being a member of congress prevented his being brought into office, and when the Marshall was changed, Mr Waddell by your most confidential friends were presented. This Mr Craigg solicitted—be now solicits the Naval office, or the Post office. the latter I view the most important in your state.

Now to put as prominent a character as the acting Governor of your state,² in an office subordinate to a collector would be degrading to him and the great state of New York and be injurious to you. I would therefore suggest that he be placed in the Post office next 3rd. of March or brought here where a more honorable situation can be given him than a subordinate to a collector, and give to Mr Craigg the Naval office which will, with the office you ask for Col Clinton cancel and quiet all the claims

² Enos T. Throop.

of that party and unite them heart and hand to you. I am sure of this, and I am sure it is the proper policy to adopt, and one which *you* will find in the end will unite the Democratic party more than any other course. Governeer³ is calhoun to the core, deceitful and treacherous, and on the 3rd of March must go out—and some *of the old men here* — auditors etc. etc. etc.

Library of Congress

3 Samuel L. Gouverneur. He was the postmaster at New York.